

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2007. New claims 40-45 have been added.

Claim 6

Claim 6 now stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over APA Figs. 5-6 in view of Inaba and Doane (US 5,499,444). This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action admits that alleged APA Fig. 6 fails to disclose or suggest the insulating protecting film 114 on the side of the terminal being “thinner” than the insulating substrate 111. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to have made the insulating protecting film 114 on the side of the terminal in APA Fig. 6 “thinner” than the insulating substrate 111. To support this modification, the Examiner apparently cites to layers 34a, 34b in Doane which are from about 10-30 μm thick (see Doane at col. 6, lines 11-20).

However, the solder mask layers 34a, 34b in Doane are in a different type of device/location than layer 6 in APA Fig. 6, and there would have been no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have thinned layer 114 in APA Fig. 6 in view of Doane. Layers 34a, 34b are provided in Doane to cover window 26. However, because there is no such window in APA Fig. 6, there would have not reason to have used the film 34a, 34b of Doane (or anything relating to these films, including thickness) in APA Fig. 6. Accordingly, there is no motivation or suggestion in the cited art to replace or supplement film 114 in APA Fig. 6 with a solder mask 34a, 34b of Doane. Hindsight is not permitted.

Claim 21

The Section 103(a) rejection of claim 21 is flawed in a similar manner.

New Claims 40-45

New claims 40-41 require that *a thickness of the other insulative protecting film, which is furthest from the terminal portion, is the same as or thicker than a thickness of the substrate.*

E.g., see pg. 30 of the instant specification. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this subject matter of claims 40-41.

New claims 42-43 require that *a thickness of the other insulative protecting film, which is furthest from the terminal portion, is greater than the thickness of the insulating protecting film closest to the terminal portion.* E.g., see pg. 30 of the instant specification. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this subject matter of claims 42-43.

New claims 44-45 require that *a thickness of the insulative protecting film closest to the terminal portion is not more than half as thick as the substrate.* E.g., see pg. 28 of the instant specification. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this subject matter of claims 44-45.

Conclusion

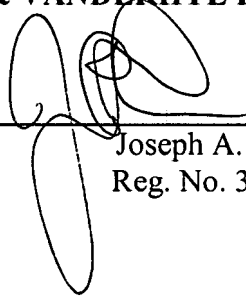
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

KAWAI et al.
Appl. No. 09/712,227
August 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and curves, positioned above a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100